

Mr. Chairman, respected delegates, ladies and gentlemen

I am very honoured to be here today, and I would like to thank the Danish Social Democratic Party for inviting me to this very special occasion. As you know my colleague Daw Aung San Sui Kyi, is unable to be here because if she left the country, the dictators who are ruling the country will not allow her to return. The generals have no regard for the will of the people and remain in power by ruthlessly suppressing the people of Burma. So it is of a great encouragement for us to know that people of Denmark are standing by in our hours of greatest need.

For the last 8 years, the international community has protested the military's brutal suppression of the people of Burma. Every year more and more organisations including the United Nations have documented the massive human rights abuses taking place in my country. Yet very few countries have been willing to act to end the repression - and my colleagues congratulate the Royal Danish Government for the leadership it has shown in taking concrete steps against this illegitimate regime in Burma. We also salute the people of Denmark and the Danish Burma Committee for the principled stand they

have taken against tyranny, by launching the boycott campaign. We need such determined effort if we are going to bring real change in Burma.

What happened to Mr. James Leiondor Nichols, the honorary consul of Denmark in Burma, highlights the nature of the general State Law and Order Restoration Council. They have the complete disregard for the rule of law. Hundreds of political prisoners remain in Burma under inhuman conditions. My own brother U Aye Win was arrested in May. To this day, we have no definite news of his condition. No official reason was given for his arrest and we are not sure where he is being held.

Since the arrest of hundreds of members of parliament this year, the military has begun to tighten its grip on the country. Under the regime laws; any political party or anyone drafting a constitution can be disbanded and sentenced to twenty years in prison. In recent months more than 60 members of Daw Prung San Suu Kyi party, the National League for Democracy have been

arrested for various charges and more than half have been sentenced to harsh prison terms. One of Daw Phung Sann Suu Kyi's close assistants Li Wia Htech, was recently arrested allegedly for showing her a film of a failed rice crop. That act was deemed detrimental to Burma's national security. He was sentenced to seven years in prison and just last week, his sentence was doubled to fourteen years. It is clear from their action that the Burmese generals are determined not to change or give up power - instead of reconciliation, they are intent on destroying all opposition.

The situation of Burma is very tense and dangerous. Denmark has taken the first step to tell the generals that their actions will not be tolerated in a civilized world. I tell other responsible governments to follow Denmark's lead. Together, we can bring democracy, the rule of law and a sense of common decency back to Burma. Thank you.